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ABSTRACT

The document provides three lesson plans designed to introduce gifted children (8-10 years old) to a study of China. The plans are built around three stories which portray specific conditions of the Country; the plans are designed to develop specific understandings related to economic conditions caused by floods and droughts, the potential menaces of insects to crop production in China, and the development of basic qualities of tolerance and friendships in an interpersonal sense. Lesson plan sheets for each story include information on behavioral objectives, activities, time and organization, materials, and evaluation. (SBH)

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A TASTE OF CHINA

by

Bruce M. Mitchell Ed. D.

A Series of Lessons
for the
Gifted/Talented
8 - 10 Year Old Student

Co-Authors
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Cheney, Washington
1979

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1979

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INTRODUCTION

The following lesson plans are designed to introduce gifted children to a study of the country of China. They are built around three stories which attempt to portray specific conditions of the country about which children should have some knowledge. The plans are designed to develop specific understandings related to economic conditions caused by floods and droughts, the potential menaces of insects to crop production in China, and the development of basic qualities of tolerance and friendships in an interpersonal sense.

Teachers can use the plans as they are written, or they can augment them in any way they wish. The planning format is based on the model developed in the book, Conceptual Planning for Creative Learning, published by Kendall/Hunt in 1976, and authored by Bruce Mitchell, Arnold Stueckle, and Bob Wilkens. The plans were co-authored with Professor Lyn Triplett, a Professor of Asian History, and Ms. Sonia Cowen. They were adapted from the book, Something About China, authored by Dr. Bruce Mitchell, Dr. Lynn Triplett, and Ms. Sonia Cowen, published by University Microfilms, and now available through ERIC.

DAILY LESSON PLANS: _____ (DATE)

BEHAVIORAL OBJECTIVE(S):

The students will create an insect which is presently a menace to the people of farming communities in China, after having listened to the short story, "The First Rice Crop".

ACTIVITIES:

1. The teacher will read the story, "The First Rice Crop".

2. The students will discuss the concepts offered in the story.

3. The students will discuss the directions for making papier mache projects.

4. The students will make a papier mache grasshopper, locust, or cicada.

TIME AND ORGANIZATION:

Activity (1) will take approximately twenty minutes.
Activity (2) will take approximately ten minutes.
Activity (3) will take approximately five minutes.
Activity (4) will take approximately thirty minutes.

MATERIALS:

The short story, "The First Rice Crop"; balloons, paste, strips of newspaper, and paint for the papier mache project.

EVALUATION:

If the students are able to successfully attain the above stated instructional objectives, then the teacher may assume that the concepts were understood as stated.

THE FIRST RICE CROP

by

Bruce M. Mitchell

Lin Chung was a fisherman in a small village near Minhow. He lived many year ago. All the people in his village lived from the food of the sea. Fish was the only food they knew. They were a happy people who loved the sea. Lin Chung was the best fisherman in the village. He knew where all the large schools of fish lived. His boat would come back with lots of fish. Each meal they would eat fish. Fish for breakfast, fish for lunch, and fish for supper.

One day Lin Chung had just finished supper. He thought of the fish he had just eaten as he strolled along the beach watching the sunset.

"That was good fish", he thought.

He walked some more and thought of the fish he ate.

"I wonder if there are other things to eat."

He wondered if animals would be good to eat. He thought about rocks and trees, wondering if they would be good to eat. He tried to eat a rock, but he couldn't bite it. It was too hard. He tried to bite a tree, but it was too big to get his mouth around. He broke off a small twig and started eating that. He spit it right out because it tasted so bad. He even tried eating a seashell but it had no taste either. Maybe fish was the best after all!

Suddenly, Lin Chung noticed an object coming from the sea. It was just a small speck and he could barely see it because of the coming darkness. It came closer and closer. Finally, he saw it was a small raft with a person on it. He went to the shore, and waited for the raft to come closer.

"Who are you?" he asked of the person on the raft.

"I am Tau-Kuang. I come from an island in the ocean. I am lost and will never see my people again."

"I am sorry you are lost," said Lin Chung. "How did you get lost?"

"I decided to go fishing for some new food. I was tired of eating rice. I wanted something else to eat. Eating only rice is tiresome for anyone. But I am so very sad. I must live here with you. I have only my pet cricket. He is a very special cricket."

"What is rice?"

"You don't know?" asked Tau-Kaung.

"We have no such thing here in our village," explained Lin Chung.

"Rice grows in wet places. It grows into kernels which are very good to eat. I would show you but I do not have any with me. Only my magic cricket did I bring."

"Magic cricket?" Lin Chung was surprised.

"Yes. He is here in my hand. He was given to me by a very special person of my island. The cricket does many good things. He helps people. He heals them when they are sick. He clothes them when they are poor. He feeds them when they are hungry. He is, indeed, very special."

Lin Chung looked at the cricket. But this magic cricket looked no different to him than any other cricket.

"Come with me, friend. Spend the night with us. I am sorry you are lost, and that you can never find your island again. But you will be happy in our village."

The next day Lin Chung told the fisherman about the new visitor. He told him about rice and the magic cricket. The villagers had many questions:

"What is rice?"

"Does it swim in the sea?"

"Does it taste just like fish?"

They all looked at the cricket and asked many more questions:

"What magic does it have?"

"Is his magic good or bad?"

Tau-Kuang explained. "Rice does not taste like fish. Rice tastes like rice. The cricket is good. I will show you what I say."

The cricket hopped out of Tau-Kuang's hand, and onto the ground. The cricket sniffed the soil around him. The villagers gasped when he opened his mouth. He had teeth! That is, it looked like he had teeth! The cricket hopped many times, spitting something out of his mouth.

"He spit out a tooth! He spit it into the soil!" The villagers were much surprised.

The cricket hopped and hopped. He spit and spit. Each time he spit, a tooth came out and was buried in the soil.

"Why does he spit out teeth? Oh, Stranger, please answer our questions."

"My cricket does not spit out teeth," explained Tau-Kuang. "He is planting rice in your soils."

All the day, and all the next day the cricket spit rice into the soils. The villagers watched. The villagers watched the rice go into the ground, but they could not see the rice grow out of the ground. The villagers began to wonder if the stranger was fooling them.

"The stranger and his cricket do not tell the truth. They cannot make rice. They only spit teeth into the ground." The villagers grew angry at such thoughts.

The villagers got so angry that the new visitor had to leave the village and live in a nearby cave with his cricket. Tau-Kuang told the villagers that the rice would grow but they did not believe his words. Only Lin Chung believed the stranger. Each day Lin Chung would take Tau-Kuang some fish, for Lin Chung had found a friend.

Then, one day the fish stopped coming in the waters near Lin Chung's village, and the villagers grew hungry.

"It is the new visitor and his cricket!" cried the villagers. "This stranger and his cricket are evil ones. That is why the fish will not bite the lines we offer".

The villagers climbed the hill to Tau-Kuang's cave. They thought of killing the newcomer and his cricket. Just as they neared the cave Lin Chung called out.

"Do not harm Tau-Kuang! Do not harm his magic cricket!" The villagers did not want to listen.

Lin Chung again called out. "Stop! Look into the fields of our village!"

The villagers looked in the fields. Many, many white teeth grew. They were rice plants! The villagers ran down the hills and into the fields. They harvested some of the crop and ate the kernels of rice. They are ate rice and liked the taste very much. The new visitor was saved. His cricket was saved, too. Suddenly, the fish started to bite again. The villagers and the new visitor all had a great feast of rice and fish. Never again did anyone tire of eating just one thing.

* * * * * *

DAILY LESSON PLANS: _____(DATE)

BEHAVIORAL OBJECTIVE(S):

The students will discuss and define the economical conditions caused by floods.

The students will discuss and define the economical conditions caused by drought.

ACTIVITIES:

1. The students will read aloud in class their own stories, or the stories of their classmates, during which time the class will have the opportunity to be able to (a) express creative achievements of the author-student, (b) reinforce student perceptions of river systems in regards to drought, desert, and floods.

2. The teacher will read the story, "The Magic Dike".

3. The students will be asked to discuss the plot of the story in their individual groups of three to four students.

4. As a class, the students will be asked to discuss the threat of the dike allowing the sea to flood the land.

TIME AND ORGANIZATION:

Activity (1) will take approximately thirty-five minutes.
Activity (2) will take approximately fifteen minutes.
Activity (3) will take approximately ten minutes.
Activity (4) will take approximately fifteen minutes.

MATERIALS

Student homework: stories assigned in previous lesson - - a short story telling "What might happen if water came to the desert" or "What might happen if the rivers flood the land."

Short story, "The Magic Dike", by Bruce M. Mitchell.

EVALUATION:

If the students were able to successfully attain the behavioral objectives as stated above, then the teacher may assume that the instructional input was effective.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT: Draw a picture of the "Magic Dike" to be used in the making of a bulletin board display.

THE MAGIC DIKE

by

Bruce M. Mitchell

Many years ago a Chinese boy named Pan Ku created stories which were not true. Pan Ku sometimes walked in the countryside, terraced in rice paddies, or along the Whang Ho River that flowed near his family's village. He traveled in hopes of discovering ideas for his exaggerated tales.

Pan Ku delighted much in the making and telling of so many untrue, and sometimes impossible adventures. Many people of his village listened to his tales, agreeing that Pan Ku was very clver in sharing the joy of stories, but each farmer returned to his work in the fields saying, "Pan Ku's adventures are only his to confess."

Everyone, even Pan Ku's father and mother would say, "Pan Ku will some day invent an adventure that will create dangerous trouble."

One day his uncle came to visit the family of Pan Ku. Pan Ku's uncle consented to walk in the hills of the countryside, and down to the Whang Ho River Dike with Pan Ku.

Now, Pan Ku and his uncle were strolling the path next to the Whang Ho River Dike when Pan Ku began to tell his uncle another of his many untrue tales. His tale was of a snake that lived near Pan Ku's village. Pan Ku said this snake was unusual because it could sing.

"I saw a snake once that could sing a song. It sang and sang for many hours, and as it sang it grew in size. It grew so long and big that it was able to eat a water buffalo. It grew longer and bigger until it was larger than the junks in our rivers. And all the while it kept singing and singing and growing!"

"That was an unusual snake, indeed!" said the uncle of Pan Ku.

"Do not forget, Uncle, that it sings and grows." added Pan Ku.

"I do not believe," started the uncle, "I have ever seen such a snake, Pan Ku. I do not remember ever seeing a singing snake, nor a snake that grew large enough to eat a water buffalo or a snake that grew larger than the junks that sail our wild rivers."

"It was even bigger than the Emperor's large palace."

"That is a very large and unusual snake. I hope it did not frighten you." Pan Ku's uncle pointed to a water buffalo working in a rice paddy. "This snake must have been very large, indeed."

"It is true, Uncle, that such a snake was very large, but I was afraid, for seeing it's two heads made me laugh."

"Pan Ku, it had <u>two</u> heads?" asked his Uncle.

"Yes, Uncle, it had two heads, and one of the heads was the color of a setting sun, while the other head was the color of the sea."

"Two heads! A red head, and a blue head! Indeed, this <u>is</u> a very strange snake. And to be big enough to eat a water buffalo or to be big enough to make our large junks seem small is very rare! Were you close to this unusual snake?" asked the Uncle.

"Yes, Uncle. I was close enough to this strange snake. I was so close that I could hear it singing a song about a rat it had eaten before it ate the water buffalo that morning."

Pan Ku and his uncle continued along the path toward the bend in the path next to the Whang Ho River Dike, as Pan Ku told more and more of this untruth.

"Did you look carefully at this snake of which you speak?" asked the Uncle.

"Yes, Uncle, I did look carefully at this two-headed, singing, growing snake."

"And it had a red head and a blue head?"

"Oh! Yes, Uncle!"

"And it was bigger than that water buffalo we saw?"

"Much bigger," replied Pan Ku.

"And it could sing songs. This snake is indeed difficult to understand. This tale is almost as difficult to understand as the dike we will see."

"What dike, Uncle?"

"It is the oldest section of this Whang Ho River Dike. It holds back the mighty Whang Ho River. We will soon be walking past this section. Dikes are worthwhile to our farmers and villagers, for they keep wild rivers like the Whang Ho from flooding the land, drowning the people and animals, and destroying crops and homes. However, this section of the dike is most unusual, Nephew."

"I do not understand why it is unusual, Uncle," said Pan Ku.

"The Story of the Whang Ho Dike is the strangest of many stories, Nephew, because it is worthwhile to our farmers and villagers in a special way."

"What strange story, Uncle? Please tell me!" Pan Ku was eager to listen to his uncle's strange story. "Please tell me of the magic dike!"

"Ah, this is a very strange story about a very strange dike. This dike is unlike all the other dikes in China. If anyone ever says anything that is not true, the dike hears his words. The dike hears the untrue words whether the speaker is near the dike or far away from the dike.

The dike can hear every speaker in all of China. The dike is wise in knowing which tales are true and which are not true. The dike knows about all of the untrue stories that are ever spoken. The dike will not allow anyone who speaks untruths to walk along the path of the Whang Ho River Dike," said Pan Ku's uncle.

"How is it that this dike can stop the speaker of untruths from walking the path, Uncle?"

"It is said by many that the dike magically lets the wild waters of the Whang Ho River flood the land, drown the people and their animals, and destroy crops and homes. This dike is said by many to drown the spaker of untruths who creates dangerous troubles."

Pan Ku did not think he enjoyed the last part of his uncle's story.

"What happens to such a person?" Pan Ku wondered.

"They say that such a person is never seen again. He is buried in water," replied his uncle.

Pan Ku thought and thought about the magic dike. He thought about the story he had told his uncle. He thought about other untrue stories he had told his friends and parents. He began to worry.

"Uncle, are we nearing the oldest section of this Whang Ho River Dike?"

"Yes, my Nephew. The magic dike is just beyond this bend in the road. You will soon be able to see the magic dike of my strange story."

Pan Ku had not hoped to hear those words. He began to lag behind his uncle. He sat down in the road and held his foot.

"What is the matter with your foot, Nephew? Did you step on a rock?"

"No, Uncle. I am very tired. Perhaps we should turn back."

Pan Ku's uncle continued to walk.

"Just around the next turn is the dike. Hurry, Pan Ku."

Pan Ku looked at the path. The turn was not too far now.

"Uncle, I'm very hungry. Let us go home now." But Pan Ku's uncle continued to walk. He was nearly to the bend.

Pan Ku worried himself into sickness from fear that the magic dike would bury him in water, flood the fields, kill the villagers and their animals, and destroy his village. Pan Ku could bear his unconfessed deeds no longer.

"Uncle, Uncle!" cried Pan Ku. "There is a truth I must tell you."

His uncle stopped until Pan Ku could catch up with him. Then they walked on together.

"Uncle, that snake was not larger than a water buffalo. It was not larger than the junks that sail the wild waters of the Whang Ho River. It was a snake of small importance in size.

"Pan Ku, I am very happy that you told me that. Come. We are within close distance of the magic dike."

Pan Ku saw the dike. He recalled his uncle's earlier words: "This dike is unlike all the other dikes in China. If anyone ever says anything that is not true, the dike hears his words. The dike can hear every speaker in all of China." Pan Ku thought about the dike and how it punished speakers of untruth. He thought about the flooding of land, and the making of a watery grave. Pan Ku wondered if the water of the wild river would pour out on him.

His uncle walked close to the magic dike. "Come, and do not delay, Nephew. Does your slow walking pace speak your fear of the Whang Ho River Dike?"

"Oh, Uncle. My pace speaks of one need - - to confess myself further. The snake was not only a snake of a smaller size, but of only one head. It was not red as I before said, but the color of soil. It's voice was silent in singing, for it was but a small, brown, and songless snake."

"Of what you confess is good to hear, Pan Ku."

"What of the magic dike, Uncle? Will it hear my truths? Will it allow the wild waters to flood in anger?"

"I'm sure the dike will no longer threaten our journey. Take my hand, Pan Ku, and we will finish our walk."

* * * * * *

DAILY LESSON PLANS: _____(DATE)

BEHAVIORAL OBJECTIVES:

The student will define the ways of developing "friendship" and "tolerance" in the cultivation of a relationship between best of friends.

The student will describe ways in which he and his best friend have learned to "tolerate differences in each other."

The student will define the basics of "friendship" and "tolerance" portrayed in the story "CHOA AND THE DRAGON".

The student will define the element of "fear" and "distrust" that must be dealt with when establishing a new relationship with others.

The student will define the similarities and differences existing between Chao, the boy, and the fire-breathing dragon in the story "CHOA AND THE DRAGON."

ACTIVITIES:

1. The student will be asked to define the ways he and his best friend have come to be best friends.
2. The student will be asked to define the ways in which he and his best friend have developed "friendship" and "tolerance" in the cultivation of their relationship.
3. The student will be asked to define the basics of "friendship" and "tolerance" portrayed in the story "CHOA AND THE DRAGON."
4. The student will discuss the basic qualities the villagers disliked about the dragon.
5. The student will discuss the basic qualities the emperor and his soldiers disliked about the dragon.
6. The student will discuss the basic qualities the boy, Chao, liked in the dragon.
7. The student will discuss the basic qualities the boy, Chao, had to tolerate in the dragon.
8. The student will discuss the basic qualities the dragon had to tolerate in the boy, Chao.
9. The student will discuss the "joint effort" people (and dragons) must make in order to develop a "friendship".
10. The student will hypothesize what would have happened to the soldiers and some of the villagers if they had made attempts to be kind to the dragon before Chao did so.

DAILY LESSON PLANS
(DATE) CONTINUED

ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED):

11. The student will hypothesize what benefit, if any, the purpose of Chao's and the dragon's visit to see other people achieved. (Spread good will to the rest of the world?).

12. The student will define the similarities and differences existing between Chao and the dragon in regard to the need to "tolerate" such qualities and emphasize the likeable qualities in friends.

TIME AND ORGANIZATION:

Activity (1) will take approximately three minutes.
Activity (2) will take approximately five minutes.
Activity (3) will take approximately thirty minutes (including reading and discussion time)
Activity (4) will take approximately three minutes.
Activity (5) will take approximately three minutes.
Activity (6) will take approximately three minutes.
Activity (7) will take approximately three minutes.
Activity (8) will take approximately ten minutes.
Activity (9) will take approximately five minutes.
Activity (10) will take approximately five minutes.
Activity (11) will take approximately three minutes.
Activity (12) will take approximately five minutes.

MATERIALS: Short story titled "CHAO AND THE DRAGON".

EVALUATION: Through the reading of the story and feedback during the class discussion the students should have developed an understanding for the need to develop friendship and tolerance through "joint effort."

HOMEWORK: Students may wish to draw a picture of the dragon or of Chao.

CHAO AND THE DRAGON

by

Bruce M. Mitchell

Many years ago a little boy named Chao Chung lived in a small fishing village on the East China Sea shores. Every day Chao Chung would go with his father to the ocean to see what their luck would be. They were a poor family, but very happy. Chao loved to fish and he spent many long hours watching the water for his father to see if there were any fish close to the boat. When they returned each day with their catch, Chao would stroll along the beach barefooted. He liked to feel the cool, wet sand between his toes. He would search for beautiful seashells for his collection.

It was a village filled with other happy people. They were not rich, but they loved their country and their life was good. But, things were not good in other parts of China. There was a wicked emperor who was angry because he, too, was poor. He had a very small supply of gold. Other emperors would make fun of him because they all had more gold than he did. An old legend told of a huge pile of gold which lay deep in the cave of a mean, evil fire-breathing dragon which was high in the mountains behind Chao's village. Many other emperors had been mean to the dragon. They sent soldiers into his cave and he would chase them out, shooting fire at them. Many soldiers had been killed. The emperor decided that he must have the gold which he knew was in the dragon's cave.

One day when Chao Chung and his father returned from the sea, there were many soldiers in the village. Chao's mother was there to greet them.

"They have come to kill the dragon and get the gold," she cried. Chao and his father hurried out of the boat and up to their house.

"We will wait here until the trouble passes," said Chao's father. The next day the soldiers went to the mountains. They had many spears and other weapons. The villagers waited down below. Soon, they heard faint screams and roars from up above. They saw much fire coming from the mountain. They waited and waited. Soon it was quite still.

They waited longer and finally one of the villagers cried, "Aaiiii! Look! A soldier comes toward us. He is badly wounded."

The people scrambled up the hill to the injured soldier who had fallen to the ground. Chao's father was the first to reach his side.

"What happened my friend? Are you all right?"

The soldier looked up from where he lay.

"I am barely alive. The dragon...he...he...killed all the men, except me. See how badly I am burned!"

By this time other villagers had reached the soldier's side.

"Tell us what happened!"

Again the soldier looked up at the men. He drank some water which one of the fishermen offered him.

"I saw the gold! It is there! But the dragon is too terrible. He will not let anyone have it. When we threw our spears he snorted fire at all. All but me were killed by the flames."

The soldier was brought to the village where his wounds were tended. A runner took the news to the emperor. Several days later more soldiers came to the village. They had more evil looking weapons then the first soldiers. There were also many more than before. While the villagers stayed below the soldiers went up the mountain. They heard the same frightening noises - - the screams of the men and the roar of the dragon.

They saw more fire than before. Then, all was still. The villagers waited and waited. But no soldiers returned. They had all been killed by the dragon's fire. Another runner took the sad news to the emperor.

Several days later a magnificent cart came to the village. Chao Chung soon saw that it was the emperor. How beautiful he looked in his golden gowns. The villagers bowed to him as he approached them.

"Is there anyone here who can get the gold? I will give him half." But none of the villagers spoke and nobody moved forward.

The emperor grew very angry. He shouted once more.

"I demand that someone go for the gold."

Little Chao moved forward.

"I will try, honorable emperor. I will get the gold."

"So young a lad! But so brave! I am sure you could not get the gold when all of my soldiers have failed."

"I will get the gold. The poor people in China need it. Many of them do not have enough to eat!"

"Very well," said the emperor, "All else have failed. You may have a chance."

Chao was very frightened as he climbed the mountain and approached the cave. He peeked inside and saw two huge eyes looking back at him. Suddenly, a blast of hot flame shot through the mouth of the cave. Chao jumped back to safety.

"Do not blow your fire at me, kind dragon," yelled Chao. The dragon was surprised. He had been called so many evil names. He had never been called "kind dragon" before.

"Why do you call me <u>kind</u>?"

"Because I believe that all things are kind. Only other things make them evil."

"Come in the cave so I may see who you are," yelled the dragon.

Chao entered the cave. His legs shook with fright.

"Do not throw your fire at me. I am your friend," cried Chao.

"I see you are a boy and that you are not armed," said the dragon. "I will not harm you."

"I have come for your gold," said Chao.

The dragon threw back his head and laughed until the whole mountain shook.

"No small boy who is unarmed will take my gold."

"I do not intend to take your gold. I want you to give it to me. I want to help the poor people of China. The emperor needs the gold for his people. They do not have enough to wear and they are hungry."

"You are a brave boy to come to my cave. I will give you the gold to help the people. But, in return, I wish to be left alone to live my life."

"I have one other request," Chao replied. "I wish to be your friend."

"My friend?" The dragon was surprised. "But, <u>why</u> do you want to be my friend?" And then the dragon began to cry. Nobody had ever said this to him before.

"Because, I think you are a nice dragon. People have treated you mean. But you are really not mean."

"We will always be friends," replied the dragon.

Chao took the gold down the mountain to the emperor. He thanked Chao and took all the gold. But he did not care. The emperor promised the gold

would go to the poor. Chao and the dragon saw each other every day. Some days they even fished together. The dragon became very kind and helped the people in the village. He would even play with the small children. He started their fires and heated their homes when it was cold. Several years passed.

One day a runner approached the village. He headed straight for Chao. I have bad news. The emperor did not give the gold to the poor people. He kept it all himself. He has built many gold carts for his use. He has one hundred gold suits which his tailor was ordered to make. His new palace is made of solid gold. But the people are starving. They have no clothes. Their babies cry for milk."

Chao was very angry when he heard the news. The emperor had not kept his word. Chao said goodbye to his mother and father. He would get rid of the emperor and save the people. He told the dragon the news and climbed on his back. Together they started toward the emperor's palace. Many days passed before they reached it.

Suddenly, many soldiers surrounded them. They pointed terrible weapons at Chao and the dragon.

"Do not hurt them too badly my friend," asked Chao.

The dragon turned his head toward the soldiers. A short burst of flame came from his throat. The soldiers all ran away fast. Their backs were very warm. They did not get cooled off until they jumped into the river. Chao and the dragon went up to the emperor's palace. One huff and the dragon burned down the door. They went inside and all the people ran out when they saw the dragon. The evil emperor ran out too. But the dragon could not resist the temptation. He breathed a very special huff at him. The emperor screamed and grabbed his back. He jumped right into

the water around the palace. He swam out and ran away - - never to be seen again. Chao became the new emperor and ruled wisely. And when he walked through the country to see how the people were, his kind friend, the dragon, was always at his side.

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